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**Child Abuse among High School Students in the
Northern Province of South Africa
1998**

Dr. S. N. Madu and Professor K. Peltzer

CODEBOOK

SADA 0064

**Child Abuse among High School Students in the Northern
Province of South Africa**

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Principal Investigators

Dr. S. N. Madu and Professor K. Peltzer

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STUDY DESCRIPTION

SADA 0064:

TITLE: Child Abuse among High School Children in the Northern Province of South Africa

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/S:

Dr. S. N. Madu and Prof. K. Peltzer – University of the North

DEPOSITOR:

Dr. S. N. Madu– University of the North

ABSTRACT:

This study constituted a cross-sectional investigation into child sexual, psychological, physical, emotional and ritualistic forms of abuse among high school students in the Northern Province of South Africa. A questionnaire was administered to three representative high schools in the province. The objectives were to find out about the prevalence of such abuse and the risk factors involved. A total number of four hundred and fourteen (414) students participated in the study. Both structured and open-ended questionnaires were used.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: Northern Province, South Africa

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES: age, ethnic group, religion, occupation of parents, income of parents.

UNIVERSE: High school students.

SAMPLING: Stratified Random Sampling was used to conduct the survey.

DATE OF DATA COLLECTION: March 1998.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: structured and open-ended questionnaire schedules.

EXTENT OF DATA COLLECTION: 1 data file in SPSS and machine-readable documentation and questionnaire.

Number of cases:	414
Number of records:	414
Number of records/case:	1
Logical record length:	80+
Number of variables:	75
Number of kilobytes:	39 KB

PUBLICATIONS:

- 1) Madu, S. N. & Peltzer, K. (1998) *The Prevalence of Child Psychological, Physical, Emotional and Ritualistic Abuse among High School Students in the Northern Province, South Africa*, Southern African Journal of Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Volume 10, No. 2, 80-92.
- 2) Madu, S. N., Peltzer, K. & Mashego, T. (1998) *Childhood Incestuous Abuse among High School Students in South Africa*, Journal of Psychology in Africa, Volume 8, No. 2, 171-185.
- 3) Other articles under review.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF THE NORTH

A QUESTIONNAIRE ON CHILDHOOD ABUSE

Please fill-in the questionnaire as honestly as possible. There is no right or wrong answer. Just answer the questions spontaneously. If possible, don't allow anybody to see your responses to the questions. Some questions may be very private, but be rest assured that your responses shall be handled anonymously and confidentially.

Section A

1. Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
2. Age.....
3. Skin colour ☐ Black ☐ White ☐ Coloured ☐ (Other).....
4. Place of Residence.....

Section B

1. Ethnic Group
2. Religion.....
3. Occupation of father?.....
4. Occupation of mother?.....
5. Highest Educational Level of father?.....
6. Highest Educational Level of mother?.....
7. Approximate Income per annum of father? R.....
8. Approximate Income per annum of mother? R.....
9. Are your parents ☐ Living together ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated ☐ Separated by death
10. Did you grow up living together with

☐ both of your parents
☐ only your mother
☐ only your father
☐ non of your parents
11. Did you grow up living together with a stepparent? ☐ Yes ☐ No
12. How do you rate violence in your parent's home?
☐ Seldom ☐ At times ☐ Very often
13. Flow many good friends do you have?
☐ 1 or 2 ☐ More than 2

Section C

1. Did your natural (biological) mother live with you until you were at least 16 years old?
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Did your natural (biological) father live with you until you were at least 16 years old?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Until you were at least 16 years old, did you ever have a stepmother or adoptive mother?
☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Until you were at least 16 years old, did you ever have a stepfather or adoptive father?
☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Until you were at least 16 years old, did you ever have foster parents?
☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Until you were at least 16 years old, were you raised by any other adults?
☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Until you were at least 16 years old, did you ever live in a “group home”?
☐ Yes ☐ No
8. Until you were at least 16 years old, were you ever in a juvenile detention facility (e.g., “juvenile hall”, “youth authority”)?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Section D

1. Before age 17, did one of your parents or stepparents or foster parents ever have to go into a psychiatric hospital for psychiatric problems?
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Other than being in a psychiatric hospital, did one of your parents/stepparents ever receive psychotherapy or psychiatric medication before you were 17?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Did you ever feel you were being mistreated because of your parent or parents having psychiatric problems before age 17?
☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Before age 17, did one of your parents or stepparents or foster parents ever have problems with drugs or alcohol?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes,: did this ever result in either parent having medical problems, getting divorced or separated, being fired from work, or being arrested for intoxication in public or while driving?;

☐ Yes ☐ No

Did you ever feel you were being mistreated because of your parent or parents' drug or alcohol problems before age 17?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Before age 17, did you ever see one of your parents hit or beat up your other parent?

If yes: How many times can you recall this happening,.....times

Did your father ever hit your mother?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Did your mother ever hit your father?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Did one or more of these times result in someone bleeding, needing medical care, or the police being called?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Section E

1. On average, before age 8, how much did you feel that your father/step-father/foster father loved and cared about you?

☐ Not at all ☐ A bit ☐ Very much

2. On average, before age 8. how much did you feel that your mother/step-mother/foster mother loved and cared about you?

☐ Not at all ☐ A bit ☐ Very much

3. On average, from age 8 through age 16, how much did you feel that your father/stepfather/foster father loved and cared about you?

☐ Not at all ☐ A bit ☐ Very much

4. On average, from age 8 though age 16, how much did you feel that your mother/stepmother/foster mother loved and cared about you?

☐ Not at all ☐ A bit ☐ Very much

Section F

Verbal arguments and punishment can range from quiet disagreement yelling, insulting, and other more extreme behaviour. When you were 16 or younger, how often did the following happen to you in the average year? Answer for your parents or stepparents or foster parents or other adult charge of you as a child:

	Never	Twice a year	3-5 times a year	6-10 times a year	11-20 times a year	20+ times year
1. Yell at you	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Insult you	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Criticise you	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Try to make you feel guilty	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Ridicule or humiliate you	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Embarrass you in front of others	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Make you feel like you were a bad person	1	2	3	4	5	6

Section G

Before age 17, did a parent or stepparent or foster parent or other adult charge of you as a child ever:

1. Do something on purpose to you (for example, hit or punch or cut you, or push you down) that gave you bruises or scratches, broke bones or teeth, or made you bleed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Hurt you so badly that you had to see a doctor or go to the hospital?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Section H

Before age 17, did a parent or other adult who was in charge of your care ever:

1. Lock you in a mom closet, or other small space?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Tie you up or chain you to something?

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. Threaten to hurt or kill you?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. Threaten to hurt or kill someone you cared about?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Threaten to hurt or kill your pet?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Threaten to leave you somewhere that frightened you or where you wouldn't be able to get back home?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. Threaten to leave and never come back?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Section I

1. Before you were age 17, did anyone 5 or more years older than you were or a person in position of power ever kiss you in a sexual way?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, with whom? (check all that apply)

Father ☐ Mother ☐ Brother ☐ Sister ☐

Uncle ☐ Aunt ☐ A friend ☐ A stranger ☐

A baby-sitter or nanny ☐ A teacher ☐ A doctor ☐ Other professional ☐

Did anyone ever use physical force on any of these occasions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, who?.....

2. Before you were age 17, did anyone 5 or more years older than you were or a person in position of power ever touch your body in a sexual way, or make you touch their sexual parts?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, who? (check all that apply)

Father ☐ Mother ☐ Brother ☐ Sister ☐

Uncle ☐ Aunt ☐ A friend ☐ A stranger ☐

A baby-sitter or nanny ☐ A teacher ☐ A doctor ☐ Other professional ☐

Did anyone ever use physical force on any of these occasions?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, who? _____

3. Before you were age 17, did anyone 5 or more years older than you were or a person in position of power ever had oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you, or place their finger or objects in your anus or vaginal?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, with whom? (check all that apply)

Father ☐

Mother ☐

Brother ☐

Sister ☐

Uncle ☐

Aunt ☐

A friend ☐

A stranger ☐

A baby-sitter
or nanny ☐

A teacher ☐

A doctor ☐

Other
professional ☐

Did anyone ever use physical force on any of these occasions?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, who? _____

Any other information about abusive sexual contact before you were 17?

Section J

Were there ever times when you were 16 or younger that you were tortured, repeatedly hurt, or forced to do something sexual during some sort of meeting, ritual, cult gathering, or religious activity?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If not, were you ever forced to watch this happen to somebody else?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Section K

1. To the best of your knowledge, would you say that you were sexual abused as a child before age 17?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Would you say that you were abused in any way as a child (before age 17)

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. In overall, how would you rate your childhood?

☐ Very happy

☐ Average ☐

☐ Very unhappy

